



POTENTIAL DOG OFF LEASH AREAS IN QUEEN ANNE AND MAGNOLIA

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, June 29, 2006, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Queen Anne Community Center

MEETING SUMMARY

Staff

Members/Attendees

Present:

Meeting Outcome

Lana Krisman, Project Manager; Pamela Kliment, Park Planner, Charles Sablan, Special Projects Manager

Guila Muir, Facilitator

The purpose of the meeting was to gather public input to help Parks evaluate the possibility of creating up to two dog off leash areas in the Queen Anne and Magnolia neighborhoods. The following information was provided in a presentation.

- Brief background of Seattle's Off Leash Program
- An overview of the decision making process
- How and Why sites were identified
- Description of each potential site and location within the park:
Magnolia Park, Magnolia Manor, Thorndyke Park, David Rodgers Parks and Kinnear Park.

The meeting was held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Approximately 80-100 community members attended.

**Potential Off Leash
Areas**

After meeting with representatives of the Magnolia Community Club, Queen Anne Community Council and Citizens for Off Leash Areas (COLA), Seattle Parks identified five parks to be considered for a dog off leash area. Parks hosted two separate meetings in Magnolia and Queen Anne to take public comment on the merits of the sites and on our evaluation of the sites. If there is broad support, Parks will proceed with a public hearing with the Board of Park Commissioners to establish one or two new pilot off leash areas to serve Magnolia and Queen Anne. This project is a planning process only. There are no funds for park improvements for an off leash area at this time. Funds could be sought from

the Neighborhood Matching Fund or other outside sources.

In order to identify sites, the committee and Parks used site selection factors that are included in the 1997 City Council Resolution that established the Off Leash Program. These factors are often necessary for a successful off leash area. We evaluated the park sites against these key factors and the five sites presented at meetings were those that met as many of these as possible.

Public Comment

Comments concerning potential sites:

In Support:

- All existing off leash areas were pilot sites and dogs really need to be in enclosed areas as opposed to off leash in parks or having designated hours for off leash dogs in parks.
- Rodgers site is great and was selected because it is flat. Could also locate at west end of park.
- Parks are small, so OLA would be small. Should make proportionate to size of park.
- Do we know how many households have dogs or other parks, how many QA/Magnuson residents use other parks? – are there any impact studies on existing sites? (Charles Sablan has information).
- How are OLA separated? – 4' - 5 fence - usually black vinyl, some split rails – Ordinance doesn't require it.
- Most would walk dogs to OLA as opposed to driving.
- If you buy a house by a park, expect that people will use it.
- In all residential areas, if one OLA is selected, it will be inundated. Need a number of sites.
- Kinnear is a beautiful park and happy to put in OLA.
- QA Community Council members studied every park and there is no perfect park for an off leash area. If we have an OLA, there will be trade offs. We also need regional facility and are looking at 545 West Elliott (Metro). We are open to additional ideas.
- Regarding problem of access, we could have a key card system like parking systems and neighbors would get preference.
- Some dogs are their owners' children
- Those who have dogs pay taxes, support your kids' schools, play areas, etc. – dogs are important. People meet each other w/dogs.
- Forget about all fenced OLA, just have hours set aside for off leash dogs.
- Kinnear Park is being considered for restoration and an opportunity to work with parks to bring something positive into the park. Locate OLA in lower Kinnear.
- If put OLA in crime area, crime moves out.

- Support Rodgers Park location and wants to see people ticketed for off leash dogs. The idea for an OLA is in the Queen Anne Community Plan, QA neighborhood plan and COLA supports implementing neighborhood plan.

Opposed:

- Residents who live above Kinnear Park on W. Olympic & Roy are struggling for parking.
- It is not about dogs, its about parks. Look at other properties (non-park). So much is being torn down, need to protect green spaces.
- Children are more important than dogs. Keep greenspace for kids.
- It is about tradeoffs. This is a dense neighborhood and doesn't have room for dog park. Neighbors have a little yard – why do dogs need so much space?
- Lives near Kinnear – doesn't have dogs - dog owners have a sense of entitlement.
- Lower Kinnear is an unsafe area, lots of indigent people.
- People and dogs can enjoy parks with dogs on leash. Lived next to Kinnear Park since 1960 and have walked in park every day.
- Lower Kinnear - knows indigent people and some are working people and are nice. Kinnear is a historic treasure and this type of facility wouldn't fit.
- Spaces are small and will be used too much and will be inundated.
- Rodgers is a multi use park. It has tennis, basketball and is already very busy with parking issues.

Comments concerning Discovery Park and other suggested sites:

- Idea was to have small, multiple parks – Kinnear is 14.1 acres – proposed ¼ acre, Rodgers is 9 acres, proposed 1.4 acres. QACC is looking at other sites and working with King County to get 3rd Ave West site. Also want to include area behind SPU gym & track at Ship Canal Park.
- Dog owners have to know that people are scared of dogs and against people who don't have dogs on leash. Locate on private property. COLA needs to be more resourceful in looking for non park properties.
- Parks Dept. needs to think outside box. Community wants Parks support of 3rd Ave. W./Metro site.
- Consider Interbay area near golf course.
- Support regional site on Elliott Ave. W. King County property.
- Relate siting to Seattle Dept. of Transportation traffic patterns
- Support site at Discovery Park and contacting Friends of Discovery Park and amending master plan. Neighbors should not fear process to amend master plan.
- Consider a site near SPU.

- 3rd Ave. W. site is preferable to David Rodgers Park.
